

The Nation.

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The Week.

THE November elections will have taken place before our next issue, and the country will at length have some idea of the composition of the new Congress, and the probable occupation of the present one at the approaching session. For abundant reasons the greatest interest is felt in the result in this State and in Massachusetts, though considerable economic importance, at least, should be attached to the mixed contest in Pennsylvania. In Massachusetts it is observable that, while confident predictions of Talbot's plurality by 20,000 to 30,000 are put forth, the Republican papers have not abandoned their anxious tone, and they follow up Butler's daily crop of lies with a promptness and assiduity which reveal the latent fear of leaving even one point uncovered by which the ignorant voter might justify his support of him. We believe, too, that there is very little betting on the election. In this city nothing has occurred to chill the hopes of the anti-Tammany combination. The registration has been noticeably full, and if the history of similar coalitions may be trusted for precedents, Tammany may be conceded an increased vote and still find itself in the vocative. This would be less wonderful than that any permanent good should come of a victory so won. Municipal reform might conceivably begin with the overthrow of a particular Boss, but then there would be something else besides another Boss to take the place of him.

Directly and indirectly the Cabinet has played a leading part in the political canvass during the week. On Friday Mr. Sherman made a short speech at the Fair at Cumberland, Maryland, and the same evening Mr. Evarts addressed the Republicans of New York in mass meeting, while on Monday Mr. Schurz spoke in Boston to a crowded audience in one of the largest halls. Mr. Sherman's talk was chiefly about the favorable condition of the country in respect of its exports, its gross products, its diversified industries, its redistribution of population, its improved national credit and decreasing Government expenditures. His remarks on silver were sounder than usual, but still tinged with the disingenuousness or want of frankness which seems inseparable from his financial utterances. A sentence like this, "I think we can all agree that having gold and silver and paper money *so near to each other*, we will not allow the gap to widen again," stands in queer juxtaposition with the complaint of the disturbance threatening resumption from the excessive issue of silver dollars "so near" the greenbacks in value, and with the prediction that unless this issue of "silver coin of a kind less valuable than gold coin" is restricted, gold will be driven out of circulation and silver "become the sole standard of value."

Mr. Schurz's and Mr. Evarts's addresses were intended for immediate effect on the elections of the two States in which they were delivered. There was, however, this difference between them: Mr. Schurz confined himself strictly to the financial issue, and spoke for the persuasion of the working-classes, and avoided all allusion to party till the very close, when he characterized both Republicans and Democrats with candor and impartiality, and urged only that those candidates should be voted for who stood by honest money and the national honor. Nor did he juggle with the silver dollar, but declared that it could only be retained in the circulation by limiting its coinage to the wants of the retail trade and fixing its legal-tender character. His showing that inflation of irredeemable paper always raised the prices of necessities far beyond the ratio of wage-increase, and that in the process of recovery wages were the first, and high prices the last to fall, was very effective; and so

was his comparison of the loss caused the poor by the failure of savings-banks and that which depreciation of the currency, by never so little, occasions. In short, we think it is no exaggeration to say that the speech contains in an exceedingly neat and compact form an exposure of nearly every fallacy of the day about the currency, and that a man who has read it carefully can hardly be confounded by the most dexterous inflationist. Nothing clearer or more forcible than Mr. Schurz's exposition of the interest of the laborer in a stable standard of value has come under our notice in all this controversy; nothing in his speeches, too, is more noteworthy than their terse and vigorous English, and for this reason they may be perused with as much profit by the blatherskite as by the greenbacker. Their prime merit, however, and what distinguishes them from nearly all the other political oratory of the day, is their freedom from evasion and word-play, and their resolute facing of facts.

Mr. Evarts, on the other hand, spoke as a New York Republican to New York Republicans, eulogized the party for its past history, urged his hearers to vote for the Republican nominee for the Court of Appeals, and to return Republican Representatives and Senators to Congress, and anticipated the election of another Republican President. He ridiculed the assaults on Hayes's title, and defended his Southern policy while insisting on Federal vindication of the rights of citizenship. On the reform of the civil service he spoke well where his remarks were not liable to be misconstrued. On the financial topic his rhetorical thrust at the former denouncers of the greenback made him seem like a believer in its "battle-born" qualities, and he apparently is not indisposed to agree with Secretary Sherman in keeping it in circulation after resumption. He also foresaw the happy time when gold, silver, and paper, without discrimination as to quantity or relative value, should lie down together. But his analysis of fiat money was as truthful as it was witty, and there could be no better statement than this: "Wherever a magician or a pope gives us fiat money, he must give us fiat trade, fiat food, and fiat arrangements all through." That an unlimited issue of greenbacks could only be effected by national extravagance, to which all parties are opposed, or national repudiation, was clearly and forcibly illustrated.

The prosecutions of Democrats in South Carolina for interfering with the Republican meeting at Sumter have resulted, ludicrously enough, in the plaintiff's going bail for the defendants, probably owing to his being threatened with an extraordinary number of retaliatory indictments which had been drawn against him. Interferences are still reported, and they doubtless have the approval of the majority of the whites; nevertheless, there has been a good deal of talk about the "gagging" of General Gary, whom Hampton openly denounced, and whom the State Committee refused the campaign appointments which he solicited, and the same Committee have published an address which does not explicitly condemn the proceedings at Sumter, but which counsels peaceful methods, and "considers it of the utmost importance that there shall not be the faintest disturbance of the public peace or any approach to turmoil or disorder." There is, in short, evidence that Northern opinion continues to operate as a moral restraint in South Carolina, even when matters go so far as that volunteer companies of cavalry and infantry "assist" in the canvass, as they did at Sumter and Manning; and the probability is that the Democrats (or however they may designate themselves) will stop short of bloodshed if not of violence. Meantime, it behooves Northern editors to be on their guard against exaggerated accounts from the State; to judge individual outrages as far as possible on their merits; to compare what is now going on with what took place two years ago, and to weigh the causes in both cases; to remember that the extinction of color differences is for the advantage of both races and of the whole country; and, for

the rest, to watch patiently the result of an attempt under difficulties to reconcile universal suffrage with the rule of the smallest number. It should not be overlooked that neither in South Carolina nor in Texas is the intimidation practised upon the blacks alone, but also upon white greenbackers and "Independent Democrats."

The kind of moral crookedness and perversion—it can hardly be blindness—with which a great many Republicans have been afflicted during the whole of the Presidential controversy is well illustrated in a recent observation of the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*. It says:

"The *Nation*, and most of the Democratic papers, admit that the cipher despatches are wicked, but they join in exclaiming that no just verdict can be made up until the Republican despatches are discovered. It would be very odd if a jury, trying a burglar, should say: 'This man did break in and steal, of course. He is a great scoundrel. He deserves condemnation. But possibly there is some other burglar somewhere in Europe or Asia or Central Africa who is a greater rascal, and we must clutch him and examine him before we determine the measure of this man's guilt.' When the Republican despatches turn up—if there are any—it will be time enough to discuss them. But just now we are discussing Democratic despatches which have turned up."

This is nearly silly. What has really happened is that one of two suitors in an important cause, in which judgment has been given against him, has been accused of trying to bribe the Court, and it is shown in the body of the accusation that the Court really was bribable and did offer its decision for sale, whereupon the successful litigant—not, be it remarked, a "burglar somewhere in Europe," but the other party in the cause—turns to the public and says: "See what a rascal my adversary is! Why he actually tried to influence the Court with money; here is the proof, in the shape of his private correspondence." Very properly the public is not taken in by this appearance of virtue, and refuses to consider "Zach" and "Bill" Chandler and Jay Gould mere "burglars in Central Asia." It says, on the contrary: "My fine fellows, your virtuous indignation is very pleasant to witness, but I am not entirely satisfied about it. It appears clearly that the Court was corrupt, and that the plaintiff there tried to buy its judgment; but it appears also that it was you, after all, who got judgment. Now, how did you get it from this confessedly corrupt tribunal? I do not wish to be over-inquisitive, but would you mind letting me look at *your* correspondence before I make up my mind which of you is honest? To be frank with you, I cannot well see why such a court as the one you describe should have refused Tilden's good money and given you the office for nothing." Whereupon Zach and Bill and Jay Gould mumble out that anyhow none of their telegrams went to Mr. Hayes's house, and that one criminal is enough to try at a time, and that there is no use in getting excited about any frauds except those that have been found out, and that anyhow they must hurry home to attend the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting.

We have been very near having another sensation during the week through the announcement that Anderson was ready to acknowledge that he had been lying in his evidence before the Potter Committee, and to lay bare the whole wickedness of the plan of investigation by which the Democrats sought to attack the President's title last spring. Some of the Republican papers, if one might judge from the size of the type bestowed on it, at first thought this was something serious, but reflection must have made the matter look less hopeful. Anderson, who, be it remembered, was one of the men on whose report the Presidential vote of the State of Louisiana was awarded, testified before the Potter Committee because he was short of money. By so doing he appears to have got no money and lost his situation. He is now ready to admit himself for the second time a perjurer and forger because he is again short of money, and will probably do so any desired number of times for reasonable compensation. But managers of both parties will do well to drop him and his kind. There is no more "capital" to be

made out of him, and he has already disgusted the public thoroughly both as a Republican politician and Democratic witness.

We have no doubt, however, that the space allowed Anderson in the daily press was really owing to the extreme dullness of the season in respect of news. Another godsend in this way has been the wholesale robbery of the Manhattan Savings-Bank on Broadway, of a Sunday, a day proverbially respected by burglars who have had pious mothers, and therefore universally regarded by bank directors as rendering extra watchmen unnecessary and extravagant. In this case, too, they trusted the janitor, who lived upstairs, with the combination of the safe, which he had to give up, and did everything but follow the example of timid housekeepers who leave a cold lunch in the basement to propitiate chance visitors. It must mortify them to think how little cash and negotiable securities their guests got off with.

The payment of the Fisheries Award was made dependent, by the statute passed at the last session of Congress, on the deliberate rejection by the British Government of such representations on our part, showing it to be exorbitant and not a unanimous award, as were directed to be made from Washington. The time is near when the two Governments should come to a final decision; but meanwhile a different issue, not of our seeking, has been raised, which may rightfully determine us to withhold payment. Last January an American fleet of twenty vessels fishing in Newfoundland waters were violently assailed, their tackle confiscated, and themselves driven off, with the loss of the entire season, by the native fishermen, who accused them of violating the local laws. The Newfoundland case has only recently been reported to the British Government by a naval officer despatched to investigate it, and reaches Washington with Lord Salisbury's endorsement. It alleges that, contrary to the Newfoundland statutes, our fishermen were taking herring with a seine near the coast—*i. e.*, within the three-mile line—between October 20 and April 25; were also doing it on Sunday; and were also "harring" fish; and that they were violating the Treaty of Washington by interfering with the rights of private property and with British fishermen engaged in the peaceable use of the coast.

Mr. Evarts replies, in a despatch to the American minister dated Sept. 28, that the Government can by no means admit that privileges accorded by treaty are subject to local regulations, whether these antedate or postdate the treaty (the Sunday law was passed in 1876); that if the contrary be true, the value of the fisheries concession is destroyed for half the year; that the Government could in no event commit the persons, property, and interests of our fishermen to the "unregulated regulation of another Government"; and that it holds that the fishery rights are to be exercised wholly free from the restraints of the Newfoundland statutes. He protests, of course, against the lawless manner in which the Newfoundland fishermen asserted their supposed rights, and he calls for the testimony on which Capt. Sullivan bases his quasi-judicial report to Lord Salisbury. The obvious hardship involved in the freedom of American fishermen to do in Newfoundland waters what the native fishermen are prohibited from doing, suggests a common regulation both for the sake of peace and of the preservation of the fishery. But Mr. Evarts points out that this can be effected only by a joint convention between Great Britain and the United States. The present justification of the incidents of January is a blow at the treaty now in force, for it cannot be imagined that submission to the authority of Newfoundland could ever have been entertained as a part of that treaty, even if the proposal had ever been made. Mr. Evarts concludes by warning Lord Salisbury that until this question is settled the course of this Government in reference to the payment of the award cannot even be considered.

The inquest on a shocking railroad disaster to an excursion train near Wollaston, Mass., on the 8th of October, has just been com-

pleted, and the finding is that the conductor of the freight train whose movements caused the derailment of the express was guilty of gross negligence in several particulars; that his engineer was guilty of negligence in respect to signalling; that the express engineer was too seldom on the road to make him fit to have charge of a belated, heavily-laden excursion-train at night; and that though the company's rules would, if observed, have prevented the accident, some extra precautions were called for under the circumstances. This exact apportionment of blame is not the usual product of an inquest, and in fact neither coroner nor jury had anything to do with it. The office of coroner was abolished in Massachusetts last year, and inquests are held by the court or trial justice, either upon notification of the "medical examiner" or by the direction of the District-Attorney or Attorney-General, or by virtue of the statute in the case of all fatal railroad accidents. The Wollaston inquest took place in the District Court of East Norfolk; and the conductor having already been arraigned on a charge of manslaughter, Justice Bumpus decided, from the evidence which led to the finding, that he was liable, and accordingly held him for trial in December.

The financial situation in London improved somewhat during the week; at least there were no new failures, and at the close there was rather more confidence than at the beginning. The Bank of England, by reason of the favorable condition of the exchanges between London and Paris, gained a large amount of gold. Sterling exchange at New York also moved three "points" nearer to that at which gold coin can be sent hence to London, and closed within one point of the specie-shipping rate. How rapid the change in the sterling market has been is shown by the fact that during the week there were received here \$1,310,000 American gold eagles from Paris, which had started when sterling as well as French exchange was in this market at the specie-importing rate. The week also witnessed an advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ of a penny in the London price of silver—to 50 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per oz. There was a corresponding rise here, and the bullion value of the 412 $\frac{1}{2}$ -grain dollar advanced at the close of the week to \$0.8469; less than ten days ago it was \$0.8275. The Treasury bought 400,000 ounces of silver during the week; at least it is supposed that it did, for all information respecting the purchase has been withheld from the public. The money market worked easily for borrowers during the week, and at the Stock Exchange there was a strong "bull speculation."

It cannot be said that the Eastern Question looks any brighter, although the steadiness of the English consols shows that no real anxiety is yet felt in London. But it is curious and almost amusing to see how the various little devices by which Lord Beaconsfield sought to give the Treaty of Berlin the air of a triumph over the Russians are being blown to pieces one by one. The division of the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano into two provinces he dwelt on in the House of Lords as a peculiarly happy idea, and in reply to the obvious objection that the portion left under Turkish rule would probably seek union with the independent portion beyond the Balkans, he replied, with a sort of chuckle, that he had provided against that by calling the southern province "Eastern Rumelia," his idea being that Bulgarians living under the Turks would not intrigue or rebel against the Sultan any more if they did not live in a place called "Bulgaria." The fatuity of this has been commented on, of course, but not nearly as much as might have been expected. The latest news is that the Bulgarians south of the Balkans have risen in formidable numbers and are being reinforced by volunteers from Greece and Macedonia, and that 18,000 Turkish regulars have been already despatched against them. Of course the Bulgarians proper north of the mountains and "the Eastern Rumelians" will discountenance these wicked men, and on no account send them arms or supplies or recruits.

In the meantime the Russians show no disposition to surrender the administration of Eastern Rumelia, and make the outrages per-

petrated on the Christians after their evacuation of the country south of Adrianople an excuse for refusing to leave that city and for stopping the northward march of a portion of their army, and this, with other complications, has forced the English Chancellor of the Exchequer to confess in a speech that a renewal of the war was not impossible. On the other hand, it is said that Austria has relieved the mind of the Porte, and probably avoided an armed collision, by announcing that it will not at present occupy Novi-Bazar. This is probably the result of the uncertainty of the political situation in Austro-Hungary, in which the attitude of the two parliaments towards the Andrassy policy has still to be ascertained. The great Cyprus "card" of the Beaconsfield Ministry has received another heavy blow from Mr. Samuelson, a distinguished Liberal Member of Parliament, who has just returned from a careful tour in the island. He confirms Mr. Forbes's account of the folly of the acquisition, which, he says, was simply "a red herring drawn across the scent" to direct the attention of the Jingoos from the partition of Turkey under the Treaty of Berlin.

The news from Afghanistan continues to be very warlike, and there is talk of an impending declaration of war against the Amir by the Governor-General, to be followed at leisure by active operations. The Ministry in London are evidently a good deal puzzled by the affair, and would like, it is said, to throw the responsibility of it on the Indian Government, who, for financial reasons, are naturally unwilling to assume it. All the fresher details go to show that the Amir will take the field with a larger and better equipped force than he has yet had; that he will have the services of a greater or less number of Russian officers, but that the hill tribes will probably prove as unreliable as ever, if not more so than ever. The attitude of Persia is exciting some interest, as she is massing troops on her Afghan frontier, and Indian diplomatists are trying to find out whether on this occasion she is going to be Russian or British. If the latter, she will by threatening Herat, which she has long coveted, probably make it impossible for the Amir to defend Candahar.

The Paris *Temps* sums up instructively the recent talk of the Russian press about the Afghan difficulty and the general situation in the East, including that of papers, such as the *Bourse Gazette*, which were strongly opposed to the late war with Turkey. It forms a curious commentary on Lord Beaconsfield's saying that he had brought home "peace with honor." The *Globe* points with exultation to the turn things are taking, as a proof of the folly of those who consider the Treaty of Berlin a defeat of Russia. Her very enemies seem to work for her. The Austrians in Bosnia and the English in Afghanistan have fallen into the nets they spread for the Russians. The Moscow *Gazette* points out that in Afghanistan the English must run enormous risks and incur great expense to punish the Amir, or else suffer a great humiliation in the eyes of their own subjects; that Russia will not suffer herself to be called to account for sending an ambassador to any court she pleases; that if the Amir fights there will doubtless appear in Russia as many "Afghanophiles" as there were "Turcophiles" in England during the late war, and it will be impossible to prevent their giving aid to the "weaker party," whom the English always love so much. Moreover, the loss of her territory in Central Asia would be no great humiliation to her, and a great gain in every way, while to England the Indian Empire is a vital possession, the loss of which would strike a deadly blow at her prosperity, and lower her position in the political world. This being the case, Russia can, with a little intrigue and the use of twenty battalions or so, involve England in costly and dangerous hostilities in Asia, and thus render her powerless in Europe. Many of the papers, too, foreshadow and commend an alliance of the Czar with the Sultan, which it is very likely will take place when the Sultan finds "reform" getting too troublesome. It is worth while to recall, in connection with all this, the shout of triumph raised by Lord Beaconsfield's admirers when he brought 7,000 Sepoys to Malta. They tried to persuade themselves that the bold stroke had brought the Czar to his knees.

RESUMPTION IN "GOLD AND SILVER."

THE Republican party has, after much struggling and screaming and many attempts to change the subject and look in some other direction, been brought to face the paper-money question fairly and squarely, and take its stand for the redemption of Government obligations in "coin." That is to say, it has returned after some wanderings and vacillations to the original truth, that the greenbacks were issued as Government promissory notes merely, to be redeemed in money as soon as possible, and had the legal-tender quality bestowed on them simply as a military necessity; or, in other words, as a means of extracting an involuntary loan from an indeterminate portion of the public. It would not be fair to say that the Republican party ever really took any other ground than this; but it did make efforts not to take it openly or ostentatiously or firmly, and, in fact, tried to avoid talking about it, and a large number of its leading men did in some degree countenance the greenback delusion that Government promissory notes were money by pretending or admitting that the Government bonds might be paid in greenbacks.

One of the ways in which it tried to escape from the greenback issue was by going headlong into the silver agitation. The theory of many prominent Republicans was that by pretending that a terrible mistake was made in the demonetization of silver, and that if it were again put in circulation it would have a most reviving effect on industry, they would satisfy the Greenbackers and put an end to all talk about inflation. To support this notion without seeming to abandon the policy of resumption it was, of course, necessary to talk of silver and gold as substantially the same thing, and of resumption in silver and gold as an easy matter. In fact, Secretary Sherman actually told the Committee of the Senate that the remonetization of silver would make resumption easier—that is, that it would be easier to resume in gold and silver than in gold alone, and that the act of last spring was going to help him in putting the currency on a sound basis. Secretary Evart's letter of invitation to the International Silver Conference informed the European governments that "the policy of this country in support of bi-metallic money might be considered as decided," and he could only have said this on the assumption that gold and silver were of equal value and likely to remain so, for the Silver Bill made no provision for keeping them both in circulation by adapting their legal-tender value to their market value. We observe that in his late speech in New York, too, he declares that it is "the duty of the Government to make them (the greenbacks) equal to gold and silver," and that, while the people desire paper money, "they want that money good, and they know there is no standard for its excellence that can be trusted, except it be convertible into gold and silver." Here again the most serious fact in our financial situation, the difference in value between gold and silver, is completely ignored. At this writing the legal silver dollar is only worth 82½ cents gold, so that a man converting a paper dollar into a silver dollar would lose about fourteen cents on the transaction, and the probabilities seem to be that the value of the silver dollar is still to fall. Gold also is worth about fourteen per cent. more than silver, so that offering the holder of the Government paper the chance of converting into "silver and gold" sounds, in the present condition of the markets, and in the absence of any legal provision for keeping gold and silver on an equality, very like a joke. Gold and silver are not the same thing. Making the paper dollar convertible into silver—or, in other words, offering the holder 83 cents for his dollar—is not, to use Mr. Evart's words, "keeping the obligations of the public faith." All attempts to keep up the fiction of last spring, concocted by the silver-men to support their delusions that silver was really equal to gold, but was knocked down temporarily by the "gold-bugs" and the "Shylocks," must now be abandoned. No serious financial discussion ought to be based on it, or to take any notice of it. Nor is any use of it or display of respect for it necessary. It has been exploded utterly by the facts. It is no longer heard of from its old promulgators; indeed, all interest in the subject seems to have died out among

the agitators of six months ago. Most of them are probably by this time ashamed of their foolish talk and idle threats and false accusations. Therefore, now that the party has been fairly committed to the doctrine that the Government paper must be redeemed in some metal, the question in what metal must come up as the most prominent subject of discussion, and be settled, as all financial questions have to be settled, without evasion, without word-play, by a frank and full recognition of the laws of trade and of the conditions of the market. Talk such as is now indulged in about "gold and silver" would not be tolerated among business men in discussing the affairs of an embarrassed firm. If such a firm called its creditors together and asked for an extension, announcing its ability to pay six or twelve months notes "in coin," and on being asked in what coin, were to say "in gold and silver to be sure," it would call forth a burst of indignation in the meeting, because it would be considered not only a sign of dishonesty, but of want of respect for the intelligence of the hearers.

We are glad to see that Secretary Sherman seems to be getting over the belief that the silver question could be evaded or indefinitely postponed, or disposed of by rhetorical flights. In his speech at Cumberland, the other day, he fairly, and we believe for the first time, took the bull by the horns. "The Resumption Act of 1875," he said, "requires resumption in gold and silver coin, but the bullion in the two coins is of unequal value, the silver in the dollar being worth in gold only eighty-three cents. If the market value of these metals was at or about a relative value fixed by law for their coinage, resumption in both metals would be much easier than resumption in either. It would be very easy to resume in silver dollars alone, but it is resumption in gold coin as well as in silver that is provided for by law, as well as by public policy. The coining of \$2,000,000 monthly of silver dollars is a disturbing element which we cannot now compute. We can only hope that before its issue is greatly increased Congress will either limit its amount or make it contain silver enough to be equal in value to gold."

This is the language of soberness and truth, and if he had uttered it two years ago in Ohio, when the silver craze was just beginning to show itself, and had stuck to it ever since, the opinion of the party on the subject would never have gone astray as much as it has done, and his own character as a statesman would stand higher than it does. But it ought to be observed that the suggestion that the silver dollar should be made to contain enough silver to make it equal in value to gold contains a fallacy that may become dangerous. As long as the value of silver is fluctuating as it has fluctuated during the last three years, no such device would succeed. If, for instance, even a year ago, he had begun coining the silver dollar with weight enough to make it equal to gold, it would now be five or six per cent. below gold, and he would have to begin over again. There are only two ways out of our difficulty: one is to restrict silver as legal tender to small amounts; the other is to restrict the coinage of it to the amount which experience shows to be called for for small change. Under the former plan, people who liked silver could settle their accounts in it at the market rate if they chose; under both, we should have what of all things we most need, the most stable standard of value available.

The future, in any case, is by no means as uncertain as the Secretary seems to think. Nothing is surer than that if he goes on coining silver at the present rate until enough is afloat for general use, we shall in a year or two lose our gold, as we lost it in 1862, and have silver as our only standard, unless silver rises to 59 or 60 pence per ounce in the meantime. The thing to be done now, and when Congress meets, is to talk of this fact in the language and frame of mind of business men, without passion or poetry, and deal with it on business principles.

THE SENATORIAL ELECTION IN FRANCE.

THE most important event in the history of the present French Republic since its foundation may be said to have taken place on Sunday last, when the Municipal Councils met to elect delegates to the Electoral College, which is to fill, on the 5th of January next,

the seventy-five vacancies which will then occur by the retirement of one-third of the 225 elected members, who sit for nine years. Each municipal council elects one delegate, and the Electoral College is composed of these and the Councils-General of the Departments. At this writing the result is not known, but the Republican gains at the late municipal elections seem to leave no doubt of a Republican triumph in the College. How much of a triumph it will be one can only conjecture; but M. Gambetta has predicted in his recent speech at Grenoble that the result will give the Republicans a majority of at least twenty in the Senate, and thus make certain that the alterations, if any, made by the revision of the Constitution in 1881 will consist in the formal and permanent adoption of the Republican form, as this revision has to be made by both Chambers in convention. It is the approach of this period of revision, and the fact that it is the Senate now to be elected which will perform the work, that gives the present election so much importance. It is, moreover, in a certain sense, a judgment of the electors on Republican institutions, which have now been working for three years under great difficulties—differing in this from the last election, which turned in a great degree, for want of anything else to turn on, on the local reputation of the candidates. Should it result as is expected, it will, too, definitively relegate to private life the last of the band of the Legitimists who, after forty years' absence from the political arena, emerged from their retirement under the stress of events in 1871, and who may be said to have made their last fight last autumn under the unfortunate and now somewhat ridiculous Duc de Broglie and M. Fourton.

The theory of these men—Conservatives, as they call themselves; Reactionaries, as their enemies call them—is simple enough. They hold, in the first place, that Frenchmen are by nature unfitted for a Republic, and that the manners and traditions of the country forbid the expectation that any such government can obtain a solid hold on the popular confidence. They hold, too, that even if the people accepted it, a Republic is sure, in France, to fall little by little into the hands of the most fanatical of the Radicals, and would thus finally become an organized attack on property, on the family, on the army, and on religion. These are objections to it drawn from expediency. But there are others which, in Legitimist circles, are probably more powerful than these, and have little to do with expediency, or, at all events, with human expediency. A good many of them believe that monarchy is the divinely-ordained form of government, and that the heir of Louis XIV. is entitled to the throne of France as a man is entitled to his house, and that it is only on a monarchy, therefore, that the blessing of God will rest, and it is only from a monarchy that the Church can secure adequate protection. In addition to these enemies, the Republic naturally has a great many who held places under the Government during the Empire, or who, holding them still, owed them to the Empire, and who, as old Imperialists, do not feel that they can look for much favor or advancement under the new régime, even if they do not fear removal. Then the Catholic clergy, as a body, may be said to detest the Republic, partly owing to the traditions of the early Republic and partly to the sceptical character of the more prominent Republican leaders. This hostility has been aggravated by the exceedingly bellicose temper of the bishops, whose polemics surpass those of any country in Europe in indiscretion and violence. No other hierarchy contains so many fiery pamphleteers, like the late Bishop Dupanloup, and they would not be Frenchmen if they did not pay the Radicals in their own coin.

One of the worst effects of the Broglie-Fourton attempt of the 16th of May last year was that it betrayed large numbers of the clergy, of the office-holders and judges of the courts, in one way and another, into an expression of their real sentiments about Republican government, and thus made them a mark for the vengeance of the victors. The higher clergy, in particular, threw in their lot frankly with the Broglie-Fourton cause, and, besides offering encouraging addresses to the Marshal in his crusade, ordered prayers in the churches for the success of his attack, not simply on Republican institutions, but really on representative government.

The judges of a large number of the courts were betrayed into straining the law for the punishment of Republican journalists, and the préfets and sous-préfets outdid even the worst doings of the Empire in throwing impediments in the way of Republican electioneering. The consequence is that a complete purgation of the civil service and a sort of defiant and suspicious attitude towards the Church seem to have become prominent features in the Republican programme, and only wait the conquest of the Senate to be carried out. As regards the civil service, the eradication of Monarchical préfets and sous-préfets is perhaps easy enough, but the purgation of the judicial bench is a different matter. The wholesale dismissal or retirement of judges would be a great scandal as well as a great evil; so it has been proposed to call on them to make formal declarations of adhesion to the Republic, in the hope that by this process they will sift themselves. The objection to this is, that there are a great many men in the judiciary who are bound to bygone régimes by ties of opinion or sentiment which do not necessarily prevent the proper and upright discharge of their duties, and which it would be cruel—especially in the case of men of advanced years—to ask them formally to repudiate. But with such an enormous system of centralized administration as France possesses the Republicans believe, or find plenty of excuse for pretending to believe, that their Government will never be safe until they have thoroughly reorganized all branches of the service, and have even put the command of the army corps in the hands of Republican generals.

The danger seems to be that in carrying out this programme the Republicans will commit the error into which all preceding régimes have fallen, of leaving nothing for time to do in the work of consolidation and regeneration; and yet in all such work time has to do the larger part. The Republic will have to strike its roots not by getting the bureaucracy and the gendarmes on its side, so much as by convincing people that it is going to last, and that, on the whole, it is a better government than any other. A generation or two will have to grow up that is used to it and used to nothing else, and on which monarchical traditions have no hold, before France is rid of the greatest of all national curses—a division of sentiment about the form of government or the title to the sovereignty. The Republican impatience with the Monarchists, now that the Republic has got the upper hand, is in fact not unlike the impatience of some of our Republicans here with the Southern whites. They are amazed that, having been well drubbed, they are not docile, contented, and enlightened, and ask whether they do not need additional legislation. But even office-holders learn very soon on which side their bread is buttered, and, if let alone, soon come to love the hand that pays them. Judges, too, soon find their sympathies flow towards the real holders of power, and soldiers forget dead kings and lost leaders as rapidly as the rest of the world. The curse of all changes in the public service for political reasons is that each one makes a bitter enemy for every friend it rewards, and, what is worse, fills the beaten party with the stern determination to play the game of proscription whenever it gets a chance.

THE WAGNER PERFORMANCES AT LEIPZIG.

Leipzig, October 12, 1878.

TWO years ago, in commenting on the Bayreuth festival, several critics prophesied that Wagner's star had reached its culminating point, and would now begin to decline rapidly. The extensive special exhibition at Vienna, in the following winter, of paintings suggested by Wagner's dramas was regarded as a sort of twilight which, before many years, would be followed by complete darkness. In spite of these prophecies, I am obliged to state that the Wagner excitement has never been greater in Germany than during the last six weeks. Almost all the opera-houses have opened the season with "Lohengrin," "Tannhäuser," or the "Flying Dutchman," the opening night being always regarded as a very "swell" occasion. Hamburg even devoted her first three nights to these three operas, and the manager is now making arrangements for producing all the stage works of Wagner in historical order, including "Tristan" and the Trilogy. Statistics which I forwarded somewhat more than a year

ago showed that at all the German theatres more nights are devoted to Wagner than to any other first-class composer or dramatic author. Since the introduction of the several parts of the Trilogy at various cities this preponderance has become still more marked. The "Walküre," the most popular, though by no means the best, of these parts, has already been produced at seven or eight places, always with brilliant success. Munich, which was the first to produce "Rheingold" and "Walküre," has now also anticipated Leipzig by a few weeks in bringing out "Siegfried" and "Götterdämmerung," to the great satisfaction of the audience and the critics of all colors. The King himself was so well pleased with the result that he awarded the title of "Königliche Kammer-sängerin" to Frau Vogt for her excellent impersonation of *Brünnhilde*, and the "Ritterkreuz" of the first class to Capellmeister Levy, as well as to the first cashier, doubtless on account of the immense sums of money he has been obliged to handle recently. For it goes without saying that the prices of admission have been almost doubled.

It is not my intention to enter on an odious comparison between the performances here and at Munich. Only this I will say, that although Munich carries off the palm in regard to most of the vocal parts, yet the total impression produced at Leipzig is better, and more closely approaches that of the model performances at Bayreuth. This is due partly to better preparation and partly to the excellence of the orchestra—the same as that which plays at the world-renowned Gewandhaus concerts. For, after all, the orchestra is the most important element in a Wagner music-drama, and only those who are able to follow its symphonic course with intelligence can properly appreciate one of them. Excepting the extraordinary association of artists collected at Bayreuth, I have never heard an orchestra play with such delicate shading, smoothness, precision, and spirit. The brass instruments are simply perfect, and the same might be said of the strings, only that this is not such an unusual circumstance. At Bayreuth, it is true, the stream of sound was more majestic, the emotional coloring more intense and vivid, but this was due in part to greater numbers and in part to the immense advantage afforded by the so-called mystic abyss. The celebrated funeral march is played superbly by the Gewandhaus orchestra. It is a very difficult composition to play well, on account of the gradual crescendos and the interweaving of motives—the biography in tones, as it has been aptly called. I have heard it played by orchestras of note in a manner which, in comparison with the performance here, makes one think of the piano-playing of a young conservatory miss as compared with Rubinstein. And in general it may be said that to do justice to a Wagner drama it requires not only good musicians, but musicians who do their work with enthusiasm. I have frequently noticed that orchestras never play the first act of a drama as well as the second and third.

This is due to the fact that Wagner's music, like Schumann's, has a very exciting effect on the mind and nerves of the performer. A sort of artistic delirium is gradually produced, which alone makes it possible to play their difficult compositions with the proper spirit and perfection. Every musician knows this who has ever played any of Schumann's chamber music. The Gewandhaus orchestra seems to work under such an inspiration. Nothing else could enable it to play with greater apparent freshness at the end of the fifth hour than at the end of the first. It does its work so well that one entirely forgets how hard it is, for no one need be told that the score of "Siegfried" compares with an ordinary opera score in point of difficulty as Kant's critique of pure reason does with a primer of logic. The only weak point in the Gewandhaus orchestra as now constituted is the need of one or two more harps. The exquisite passage, for instance, where *Brünnhilde* awakes from her long slumber, and which occurs again just after *Siegfried's* death, was incomparably more impressive at Bayreuth, where eight harps united their strains, than here, where only one was used. This shows that at least two harps are required to preserve the proper balance of parts in the Nibelung score.

As already intimated, the vocalists cannot be awarded such unlimited praise as the orchestra. A city theatre has not at command such expensive material as a court theatre, which is assisted by a large annual subsidy. Leipzig has done remarkably well with the material on hand, but by no means well enough to prove that the Bayreuth festival was unnecessary, or that the projected dramatic and musical university there under Wagner's own guidance would be superfluous. With one exception, I have found that the vocalists chosen by Wagner for the festival were far more satisfactory than any of the substitutes I have thus far heard. This may be due either to Wagner's excellent judgment—he made a special pilgrimage to all the leading theatres just before the festival—or

else to the thorough training which he gave the artists chosen; probably to both causes combined. The exception alluded to is Herr Schelper, of Leipzig. The scene in the first act of "Siegfried" between *Wotan* and *Mime* was at Bayreuth almost universally adjudged somewhat tiresome and uninteresting. Herr Schelper, however, as *Wotan*, manages to make of it one of the best parts of the drama, thus proving how necessary a first-rate impersonation is to enable one to judge of a Wagner drama properly. Those Boston and New York musicians who pronounced judgment on the "Walküre" after its attempted performance in their cities should take this to heart. Frau Wilt, who plays the rôle of *Brünnhilde*, is a decided failure in this part. I am surprised to find critics, not only here, which might be mere local pride, but some from Berlin, who call her the first of living German sopranos. In my humble opinion she does not compare with Frau Materna, of Vienna, or even Frä. Weckerlin, of Munich. Her high notes are shrill, and ring in the ear very unpleasantly; and then she is no sort of an actress. By singing the magnificent strains toward the close of "Siegfried" like an Italian aria, at the audience instead of at the hero, she simply spoiled the whole scene except for those who were wise enough to shut their eyes, listen to the music, and imagine the scene as it ought to be. Such a *Brünnhilde* as Materna and such a *Mime* as Schlosser are to be seen but once in a generation. Leipzig is fortunate in having Herr Unger, whose impersonation of *Siegfried* is now very satisfactory. He has made considerable progress in the two years which have elapsed since the festival; his articulation and acting are better, and it is refreshing to see and feel how familiar he is with his part.

It will be remembered that most of the accounts of the first performances of the Nibelung Trilogy compared the scenic arrangements rather unfavorably with the instrumental and vocal parts. The difficulties which the stage machinist has to deal with in carrying out the conceptions of the composer are extraordinary, and as some of the arrangements at Bayreuth were of the nature of first experiments, it is not surprising that they should have been wanting in perfection in a few details. Moreover, owing to the carelessness or excitement of the scene-shifters, several annoying blunders were made in the first series, which had not occurred at the rehearsals and did not occur at the second and third series. But, as most of the criticisms were written after the first series, the strictures on the scenic parts were as unfavorable as they were unjust. From an artistic point of view, the total impression given by the scenery was, to say the least, fully as good as at Munich and Leipzig, and in one respect much better. The dark abyss which in the Nibelung theatre separated the stage from the auditorium gave to the scenes, as Wagner had anticipated, the vividness and distinctness of a stereoscopic view; and this result, I believe, can only be attained by adopting the same method. This has not yet been done, although about a dozen German theatres have since the festival lowered their orchestras several feet, even Berlin having followed suit a few weeks ago. I was surprised to find that those poetical substitutes for the clumsy curtain, the introduction of mists and cloud-curtains wherever circumstances permitted it, as on the banks of the Rhine, have only been very imperfectly and unsuccessfully imitated. On the other hand, it must be admitted that in several other details the recent performances have improved on the Bayreuth experiments. This is particularly true of the dragon scene, and of the final catastrophe which closes the Trilogy—the burning of the funeral pyre, the approach of the Rhine from the background, and the destruction of Walhalla. At Munich the funeral pyre was lighted on the left side, and *Brünnhilde*, instead of leading her horse by the bridle behind the scenes, boldly mounted him and dashed into the middle of the flames. In this city a phantom horse is used, partly concealed by the smoke. It is an excess of realism, however, to make the leaves tremble in the forest scene in "Siegfried" by means of a current of electricity. The orchestral part is so exquisitely descriptive here of the *Waldweben*, and intrinsically so beautiful, that the attention ought not to be diverted from it by any such device.

A rumor was afloat at one time that Wagner himself would be present at the first performance in this his native city, but he did not appear. In a letter to Herr Director Neumann he expressed his thanks for the conscientious manner in which his intentions seemed to be followed out, and excused his absence on the ground that he wished to avoid the excitement and fatigue which he would inevitably incur in endeavoring to arrange all the details to his own satisfaction. Several years ago he had not expected that his Trilogy would be at all performed during his lifetime; and what he wondered at now was not so much the sympathy and devotion of the artists, since they had for many years always assisted him in his work, as the enterprise and ability of the director—a class of individuals

who had hitherto opposed him in all his efforts. Herr Neumann, indeed, deserves great credit for the thoroughly artistic spirit in which the recent performances have been carried on, and are still carried on, the sixth and seventh repetitions being just announced. The performances begin at six and end at eleven and twelve. Between two acts is always a pause of half an hour, after which a trumpet-signal calls back the audience to their seats. The lights are then turned down entirely to prevent reading in the text-book, and to give greater prominence to the scene; in short, all the devices are used which at Bayreuth served to secure the ideal surroundings demanded by Wagner. The dramas are given without the omission of a bar, and the result has shown that this was the wisest course to pursue; for the reception by the public has been very favorable, and crowded houses have been in order. Although after four or five hours of close attention to such novel sounds and sights the audience cannot help being physically tired, yet the mental excitement and enthusiasm, as with the orchestra, always seem to be greatest towards the end. The immense success, artistic and pecuniary, of the present undertaking is all the more to be appreciated in view of the fact that in musical matters Leipzig has hitherto been extremely conservative. To see the name of Wagner or Liszt on the programme of a Gewandhaus concert would be as extraordinary an event as the reading of a chapter from Schopenhauer at a Methodist prayer-meeting. But I am convinced that the number of converts to the modern school of music in Leipzig during the last three weeks amounts to many thousands. Foremost amongst them are the newspaper critics. The change in the tone of their articles as compared with what they were in 1876 is marvellous. Among more than a dozen criticisms in Leipzig, Berlin, Dresden, and other papers I have found only one, a little penny sheet, which still preserves its hostile attitude. The critics are now able to see that the reason why they did not like the Trilogy at Bayreuth was not due to the want of beauty in what they heard, but to the incompetence of even a professional musical critic to understand and correctly estimate after a single hearing a work to which the greatest of dramatic composers has devoted twenty-five years of his life.

One word more. Munich and Leipzig have now produced the whole Trilogy, and both intend to give the four parts on successive evenings in the course of the winter. Vienna will be the third city, as "Siegfried" is to be first given there in a few weeks, and "Götterdämmerung" later in the season. Dresden, Cologne, and Hamburg, stimulated by the immense success of all the performances hitherto given, will follow next; and in two or three years there will probably be no prominent opera house in Germany without its annual performance of the "Ring des Nibelungen." Whether under these circumstances another stage-festival may be expected in the immediate future is somewhat doubtful, at least if the present business depression and political troubles continue. But even if there should never be another festival, the first one will have done a great and useful work in accelerating by several years the general introduction of the great Trilogy. If the project of producing "Parsifal" at Bayreuth in the summer of 1880 should fail, and the King of Bavaria does not assert superior claims, it is very probable that the honor of bringing out Wagner's latest, and perhaps last, work will be bestowed on Leipzig.

THE PARIS EXPOSITION.—XIII.

EUROPEAN CERAMIC WARE.

OCTOBER 15, 1878.

IT is drawing on toward the close of the Exhibition, and for three months past the letters of Paris correspondents, printed in American journals, have come back again to Paris with this much at least of utility left in them, that they guide the most indefatigable and long-practised visitor into by-ways where he might never have gone. This show ought to be open, all except the fine-art galleries and the Retrospective Exhibition, for about six months after those should have been closed; so would the student get a chance to see thoroughly what is outside of those too fascinating and too engrossing stopping-places. The special correspondents have among them discovered many strange forms of pottery and many exceptional pieces of ceramic decoration. Probably they have named and partly described pretty much all there is, so eager, just now, is the pursuit of knowledge in this direction. Lost in the Russian department were some cleverly-painted porcelains, until some sharp-eyed Cincinnati man wrote about them to the sheet he'd left behind him. Perhaps he was stimulated by the admirable example of his townsman, Miss Louise McLaughlin. Think of finding pottery of really decorative character and of sound and correct *technique* in the American exhibit of

Class 20, which consists of the contributions of three persons or firms only, including Miss McLaughlin. It has all been described to you in one way or in another: let this letter not aim at such a result as the last one—a mere *catalogue raisonné*; there is not time nor space for that when there is question of the ceramic exhibit of 1878, but some conclusions that are forced upon the student of decorative art may be worthy of your readers' notice.

In the great vestibule on the left as one enters from the park is the pavilion of the French government art-manufactures (see my first letter for the topography). Within this structure are gathered the many smaller pieces of the Sèvres display, white and decorated, simple and fantastical—pieces for table-service and *objets d'étiquette*. The larger vases are piled in imposing pyramids of flash and glitter outside the pavilion, or—the very largest—stand severally on high pedestals, outposts of ornamental art, vying in size and in pretensions with the bronze and marble statues near. There is a special catalogue of all this—that is, of the three national manufactures, Sèvres, the Gobelins, and Beauvais, the first of porcelain, the other two of tapestry; and this catalogue describes the pieces one by one, naming their modellers and painters and any artists who may have had to do with their inception. There are one hundred and seventy-five numbers in the Sèvres catalogue alone, of which number half must be big vases from two feet to six feet high, or bowls and *vasques* proportionally large. Every sort of decoration is applied to them: figures and foliage in low relief, solid modelling "in the round" for handles and decorations, reticulated surfaces in projection showing a second body within, designs cut *à jour* through lips and edges, onyx-like incising through one surface to another of different color, cameo-like *pâte-sur-pâte* applications. The painted decoration is now plain, with elaborate care and perfect success in getting an absolutely flat and uniform tint; now wilfully broken and purposely defective and mottled; often with no painted pattern whatever; as often covered with delicate tracery of scroll-work or of natural flowers. The style is as varied as the rest, now Oriental and now classic, Italian here and Moorish there, suggestions taken from every place and every time. But is there one piece which can be approved? Is there one piece worthy to be purchased for a school of decorative art and set before imitative students of design? Is there a single vase or cup or plate which goes to take away the reproach of our studios and learned, ambitious and wealthy, epoch—that it can do everything except design? To read the catalogue of the Sèvres display, one would suppose that these pieces of decorative porcelain were lovely indeed: "The form and decoration designed by M. Chose, ground of varied or mottled blue *lapis*; subject, The carpenter's workshop, modelled in relief in white paste by M. Un Td"; it makes one eager to go and look at it. After a visit, which has ended, as many visits before have ended, in disappointment and annoyance, to open the catalogue at home is to light upon the tempting description of something not seen or not remembered, and to long to see it too; but the next visit dissolves the charm. One brief moment is enough to show that here is one more disappointment. A longer and more minute examination, a mental comparison of the piece in question with other fine pieces, and with what has been and might be again—justice calls for this, and admiration of technical skill and archaeological knowledge makes it not unpleasant; but the first verdict is not reversed.

Are we setting up too high, too unattainable a standard? At all events it is a standard which should be clearly seen and comprehended. Let us walk down the long alley which opens beside us—that of Group III, "Mobiliier et Accessoires," of the French Department—till we come to the ceramic display of French private manufacturers—a world in itself! A centre-table of prodigious size divided with low screens, a wall-table, or shelf, all around and similarly divided: this arrangement, repeated as often as necessary, gives to the chief exhibitors of decorated pottery and china their reserved space. It is a great deal too crowded, the passages are much too narrow, the thousands of pieces of every style and description jostle one another and hide one another from the wearied visitor, but still a part of them can be seen. M. Clauss makes, we find, wonderfully accurate copies of that porcelain which our fathers called "Old Japan," and we Hizen ware, or Imari ware: the porcelain of bluish-white ground decorated with dark blue under the glaze, and with red and gold (and sometimes green and yellow, and even lavender or purple) in enamel color, put on after the glaze. These Parisian imitations are wonderfully close, being copied, evidently, piece from piece—a French jar shaped and painted to imitate exactly a given Japanese jar, there present. The prices are not small—say 1,200 francs for a large *garniture de cheminée* of five pieces,

octagon covered jars and octagon beakers; of which the Japanese originals, if perfect and fine, would cost perhaps 5,000 francs, or, with replaced covers and repaired damages, as more commonly found in the shops, half as much. M. Samson Fils Aîné, at St. Maurice, Department of the Seine, has the most accurate copies of old Chinese enamelled porcelain, far more exact than the famous work of Herend, in Hungary, far more artistic in sense of color and distribution and more correct in tone and feeling than the work of the Royal Potteries of Worcester. Here are the round and octagon plates, of the size of dessert or fruit plates, painted with flowers and birds in enamelled color, such as, when really Chinese, fetch thirty francs apiece in Paris and eight to ten dollars in New York; and the imitation is perfect, almost to absolute deception even of a trained eye and touch. Vases of the darkest blue, with delicate tracery in gold, thinly put on, half obliterated in parts—a well-known style of Chinese ornamental porcelain—are copied with equal success. At four feet it is probable that no expert can distinguish the Chinese from the copy. Something in the look and feel of the porcelain itself and a certain greasy lustre in the surface of the enamelled painting are the only points which one can quote or describe as marking the difference. M. Didlot has copies of Japanese hard yellow wares, the Kioto and Satsuma *grès*, almost equally deceptive. Other establishments might perhaps be named as equally successful in what has so often been tried without very great results—the exact reproduction of ancient and foreign styles. It is a school by itself, and must be a rather recently established one. It is good as far as it goes, which is not far. But Sèvres is too dignified to copy exactly, or, at least, to lay any stress on exact copying. It has artists and designers; it will create; it will originate.

Beside the exhibitors we have named, the wares of M. Charles Houry are painted with landscapes and *genre* scenes exactly such as the canvases in the neighboring picture-galleries display, and admirably executed. M. Machereau shows perhaps the most delicate painting of little scenes of gallantry and pseudo-rusticity, like pictures taken from *lignes à vignettes*. M. Léon Barreau copies closely the soft porcelain of the old Sèvres factory. M. J. Gauvan reproduces the forms and decoration of the Sèvres porcelain of the Louis XVI. period and of the first Empire with extraordinary delicacy and refinement. The time was when this system of adornment by means of little pictures in medallions, surrounded with borders in gilt scrolls, and of larger pictures with extensive landscape views and figures à la Watteau disporting themselves under trees, was the peculiar property of the royal factory of Sèvres, and made an epoch in the history of the potter's art. It was wholly absurd as a system of ornamentation of vases or other vessels; it could not be defended as in good taste or as logical and reasonable; it was only very dainty, very wonderful, very novel. But Sèvres has got beyond that now, and is trying to set her designers to other and more lofty tasks.

Among the *faïences*, Barbizet still holds the first place for triumphs in strange directions, for *tours de force*, especially in seeming imitations and developments of the *figurine* pieces of Bernard Palissy. Here in the great cross gallery is a vase of his which seems about ten feet high; its surface is as if of broken rocks, though strangely enough covered with a most lustrous dark-blue glaze; it has immense dragons for handles, and a number of fish hanging about it—a monster, without form or comeliness, but a wonderful piece of work. Nearby is a figure in terra-cotta, the reference to which I have mislaid—a life-size Daphne or Syrius. The nymph herself is in unglazed ware, of full color, the vegetation around and clinging to her (into whose substance she is changing) is glazed, and is also in full color. It is in some respects meritorious even as a work of sculpture. A better thing, and one really admirable in its way, is Deek's life-size statue of Henry IV., in his habit as he lived, but in enamelled terra-cotta. But such bold experiments as these are not for Sèvres, which is conservative and grave, and has too pure a taste for one, too much knowledge to put up with another, of these ways of work, and is too wise to affect in porcelain the large parts and bold execution proper to *faïence*.

Seriously, the directors of the Sèvres establishment seem to have a worthy aim; they seem to be trying to find a proper decoration for porcelain, which shall be appropriate to the material and to the usual forms of the pieces, and at the same time brilliant and rich, and fitted to display the wonderful skill of their painters and gilders. They try the Persian taste, but the charm of the Persian design is lost when accurate smoothness and sharp-edged perfection are substituted in the painting for broad and hasty work, with the color taking its surface and its depth of tone almost by chance. They try the Japanese style, as they understand it, but it appears that great simplicity of purpose and aim is a necessary part of Japanese decoration, and that when contrasting colors are substi-

tuted for very subdued ones, and even when the number of colors and of parts in the design is greatly increased, the whole system gives way. The *parti-pris* is delicacy and perfection of workmanship; it would not be Sèvres porcelain if things were left loose and easy, if the parts of a design did not balance very accurately, and if opposite and corresponding scrolls were not absolutely alike. Here is at once a difficulty. Of the great styles of pottery decoration, Chinese enamel-painted porcelain is about the only one which allows of much precision in these matters, and even the most delicate of that ware is careless and rude beside fine modern Sèvres. Here, we repeat, is a difficulty, perhaps insurmountable; but it is a difficulty with modern decorative design in all its branches. This and changing fashion are as likely as not to kill it finally, to put an end to the slight and doubtful existence it is leading, and to bring in a new epoch of barren ugliness, and content therewith.

Perhaps the most artistic modern decoration of pottery in Europe is that broad and swift painting with flowers and birds of which the Haviland *faïence* is the best-known example. The forms of the vases and dishes are studiously simple. The ground color is generally rather dark, and always very uneven and full of gradations and clouds; the flowers or birds are not firmly outlined, but struggle into sight as if through a haze that surrounds them. It is very nearly a successful style of ceramic painting, and if it continues to be popular and "in fashion" for a few years more, may reach a development far beyond what we now see or anticipate. But generally the outlook is dark. There is no better or more generally good china-decoration or pottery-decoration to-day than there was ten years ago. The admirable qualities of the most important styles seem all to be disregarded alike. Modern designers paint flowers in the Japanese way without the Japanese subtilty of drawing, and without the Japanese feeling for decoration and sense of how to fill a space with ornamental forms; they copy Cairene or Persian sprays and scrolls without any sense of their proper use as parts of a composition.

Let tile-painting be left out of the present enquiry; in previous letters of this series something has been said of the really admirable use of tiles of many styles of decoration in and about the Exhibition. Ceramic painting generally means the painting of vessels and platters, for use or for show, and it is in that sense that we are using it now. In this sense, what else beside the Haviland *faïence* and its like is promising? Doulton's "Lambeth" pottery has commanded a good deal of attention. Of this the simpler pieces, ornamented with leafage and conventional patterns in very slight relief, or set with balls and "pearls" of the enamel in rows and checkers, are pretty, certainly; and this system of decoration is sensible and appropriate, but the prices are very high, and the decorative effect, when compared with the cost, is small indeed. There come also from the Doulton factory dishes and trays rather successfully decorated with flowers, and with landscape subjects, generally in yellows and buffs; there is scarcely any modern work better than that. The ornamentation by means of figures in low relief and in translucent paste, known as work in *pâte-sur-pâte*, practised now by many French manufacturers, as well as by the Sèvres and Worcester national establishments, has given elaborate and costly gems for the cabinet, but does not seem likely to develop into a true style of ceramic decoration. There have been private and isolated successes. M. Braquemond, known as painter and etcher, has painted a set of plates with minute Japanese subjects, which sell at 15 francs; and others, darker and more effective, which cost 20 francs in Paris. Quite unusual and peculiar, these plates give an idea of what artists of ability might do to help the growth of a true style of decoration. A very large vase, two metres high, painted with cocks and pheasants by M. Couturier, and exhibited by M. E. Gille, is a good example of the purely pictorial style. Other artists, and even amateurs, have done something from time to time; but what they do that is good is not followed up, and produces no permanent effect on the art.

Sèvres has been dwelt upon as an instance of failure in decoration because the most important establishment existing, and the first artistic manufacture of the most artistic nation in the world, a nation which, in the highest and purest of arts, sculpture, has reached a degree of excellence which is a surprise to those who—disbelieving in modern attempts at any but popular and ephemeral art—have failed to watch its slow development. This school of sculpture is young, moreover, and at the beginning of its life and growth. Why cannot these people do what is so much lower in the scale—paint tencups prettily and tastily? Of course there is the *consciousness* of the civilized man—he knows too much and all the rest of it; but the outcome of elaborate and thorough training is to restore the unconsciousness of childhood, and it is for this new birth of the decorative faculty that we are waiting. French orna-

mental art is in fetters, and of what these fetters are some indication may be found in the enquiry we have to make into the furniture and silverware of the Exhibition.

R. S.

Correspondence.

AN ANALOGY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: It occurs to me that the suggestion in the last paragraph of the article on the "Causes of the Industrial Depression," in No. 692 of the *Nation*, may be supported by some facts from the history of evolution.

The essence of the paragraph is contained in this sentence:

"The working people of the world—that is, its manual laborers—have not kept up in culture with the growth of invention, and they have consequently had things showered on them which they do not know how to use—or, more plainly, make no market for."

Now, first, the history of the evolution of the physical organism shows this fact. One organ or set of organs is often developed to a point far in advance of the others. Then comes what seems to be a necessary stop in its development, lasting until the other organs are brought up to a corresponding point, when all unite in a new progress.

Second, the same fact is found in political evolution. For example, in England, up to the time of the Tudors, the growth of the political constitution had been steady and rapid. But at that time the church was far behind; so there follows a period, the greater part of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which has left comparatively few permanent traces on the political constitution, but during which the ecclesiastical development is constant, and only when the church reaches the proper level do the two again unite in a new progress with the Revolution of 1688. Historical instances of this sort are numerous.

It need not be surprising, then, that invention should have reached a point in advance of the wants of the mass of mankind, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the industrial depression is a means of bringing invention—that is, the demand for invention—to a stop until the masses are raised to a corresponding level, when a new progress will begin.

Sincerely yours,

G. B. A.

DRURY COLLEGE, Oct. 9.

RUFUS CHOATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am somewhat surprised to see that in your "Notes" you speak of Mr. Choate as "the politician and criminal lawyer." Mr. Choate was a politician in the sense in which Mr. Everett, Mr. Crittenden, Mr. Ewing, and other leaders of the Whig party were; that is, for a time he served in the two houses of Congress, and, although engrossed in his profession, he always took an interest in public affairs. But to describe him merely as "a criminal lawyer" is not only inadequate but unjust. He was no more a criminal lawyer than was Erskine or Scarlett or Samuel Dexter or Webster. He indeed occasionally took criminal retainers, and one case, where his management of the defense has been grossly distorted, acquired a great notoriety. Mr. Choate was a great lawyer in every sense—a great master of legal science, a great logician, a great advocate. Nine-tenths of his practice was in the civil courts, and in these for twenty years before his death he led the Massachusetts Bar. Mr. Sumner speaks of him as its leader so early as 1840 or 1841. I have no doubt your seeming sneer was unintentional, but Mr. Choate's memory has suffered so much from similar disparaging allusions that it would not be right to allow what you say to pass unchallenged. I have not yet read Mr. Whipple's paper upon him, but I hope it represents him more truthfully than only as a criminal lawyer. No great lawyer has ever suffered so much as he has from magazine writers, who usually dwell almost solely on his mannerisms, extravagances, and defects, and forget that, notwithstanding these, he was a great jurist and logician. He has indeed not left much save a few speeches and traditions to perpetuate his great abilities, but the same is true of Dunning, of Scarlett, of Follett, of Dexter, of Mason, and of Binney. But if anybody is inclined to underrate him, he ought to read Judge Sprague's admirable characterization of him, printed in the second volume of Sprague's *Decisions*.

H.

Boston, Oct. 27, 1878.

MR. GLADSTONE AT FAULT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In his recent article in the *North American Review*, entitled "Kin beyond Sea," Mr. Gladstone says that "the struggle with the South for the first time and definitely decided that to the Union, through its federal organization, and not to the State governments were reserved all the questions not decided and disposed of by the express provisions of the Constitution itself."

This strikes me as a most remarkable statement to come from the pen of so accomplished a statesman as Mr. Gladstone. Of course every tolerably well-informed American knows that it is palpably and grossly incorrect. The United States Constitution expressly provides that "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." No American statesman or politician, before or since the rebellion, has questioned the binding force of this provision. The "struggle with the South" decided nothing of the kind stated by the great English statesman. It only decided that the powers which were delegated to the Federal Government by the Constitution could not be taken away at the will of one or more of the States; in other words, that a State could not by seceding relieve itself from the position in which the Constitution had placed it.

Mr. Gladstone evidently tells the truth when he avows, in the early part of his article, that "he has not had the opportunities necessary for the careful and searching scrutiny of institutions elsewhere," and that his "notices can only be few, faint, and superficial." He cannot have examined, with any care, either the provisions of our Constitution or the cause of our great rebellion and the result of its overthrow.

M. H.

ALBANY, Oct. 21, 1878.

Notes.

PART 4 of Grove's "Dictionary of Music and Musicians" (Macmillan) reaches the letter F. It opens with Concert Spirituel, and has a closely-allied article on the Conservatoire de Musique, and takes in Dictionary of Music. The most famous composers here included are Czerny, Felicien David, and Donizetti, though Dussek has by far the most space accorded him. English music is regarded in Michael Costa (of Spanish family, born at Naples), Charles Dibdin, Covent Garden Theatre, Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, English Opera, etc. Cristofori, the inventor of the pianoforte, and the Erards, alike receive notice. — R. Worthington will shortly issue "Stories of Remarkable Persons," by Dr. Wm. Chambers. Some Americans are among the number. — G. P. Putnam's Sons have in press a "Life of Thiers," by François Le Goff. The author, already known by his "History of the Government of National Defence in the Provinces," has prepared the present work expressly for the American public, and the translation is made from his unpublished manuscript by Mr. Theodore Stanton. — We have received a liberally-printed "List of Books added to the Library of the University of Minnesota," 1875-April, 1878. The Harvard University *Library Bulletin* No. 9, October 1, 1878, contains a list of the more important accessions from June to September; more of Mr. Norton's Michelangelo bibliography, continuations of the Calendar of the Lee MSS. and of the Sumner Collection, a bibliography of the earlier editions of Shakspeare's Poems, by Mr. Winsor, and an index-catalogue of books, etc., on the transits of Mercury. — The "Waverley Dictionary," by May Rogers (Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.), is an excellently arranged account of all the characters of the Waverley novels. It treats each volume separately, and in the order of publication, and the more important characters are illustrated by brief and well-selected sketches from the text. It has a full index, and entirely fulfils its design as a book of reference. — Mr. C. F. Thwing has done well to gather into a volume ("Colleges, Their Students and Work") the various sketches which he has before printed in *Scribner's* or the *Sunday Afternoon*, and to them he has added chapters on college societies, athletics and health, and choice of a college. They attracted much attention at the time of their publication, and were then commented upon in these columns. In their collected form they offer in brief space an entirely trustworthy and faithful account of the actual state of our colleges, and the information is of value to all interested in education, but particularly to those who desire to make an intelligent choice of a college. G. P. Putnam's Sons are the publishers. — The Boston *Literary*

World (E. H. Hames & Co.), which has been published as a monthly for more than eight years, will hereafter appear fortnightly at a slightly increased subscription price.—B. Westermann & Co. send us the first instalment of Oeeken's 'Allgemeine Geschichte,' of which we noticed the prospectus some weeks ago. To make it a better sample of the work, parts of two different books are here bound together, Dänichen's 'Ancient Egypt' and Justi's 'Ancient Persia.' They are, however, more copiously illustrated than the other books are likely to be, as the publishers point out. The letter-press, unfortunately not in Roman type, is characteristically good, and so are the woodcuts. There is a colored fac-simile, reduced, of the scene representing O-iris judging the dead, from the Thebes papyrus in the Berlin Museum, and there are other folded or full-page illustrations. The second instalment will carry on the history of Persia, which here breaks off with Darius.—The Duc de Broglie's important forthcoming work, 'Le Secret du Roi,' reveals the secret correspondence of Louis XV. with his diplomatic agents from 1752 to 1774. It will be published in two volumes by Calmann Lévy, and (in English) by Cassell, Petter & Galpin.

—The leading article in the *Atlantic* upon "The Nationals, their Origin and Aims," has the same instructive value as the evidence offered before Mr. Hewitt's Committee. The author has published, with little criticism, the notes which he has made from the conversation of thirty-four workmen, of various districts, who are mature in years and enjoy as much education as will ever fall to the common lot under a fully-developed school system. What they have to say is, therefore, worth a hearing by all who desire to see what political aberration is possible among the more intelligent portion of the people. There is much wild talk, ranging from a proposition that the Constitution is mainly valuable as "something to have discussions about," to the novel argument for Government ownership of railroads—that then it would be easy to obtain the value of "lost trunks." But in general the tendency of thought is toward converting the Government into an owner of capital and employer of labor upon a vast scale, and an essentially co-operative, rather than communistic, organization, which should be so arranged that the will of the people would have a more frequent and direct influence upon the making and administration of the laws. The monopoly of banking by the Government is looked on as the first step, to be followed thereafter by a monopoly of railroads, and so on to the end of the list, which will be the monopoly of land-ownership. All that is said is very much in the air, and there need be no apprehension of trouble until there is much more unanimity as to the direct objects to be attained and the specific methods to be employed. The revelation of the absurdities and incoherencies in the plans of the party is very clear, and in this the value of the article lies. Mr. Brooks Adams treats the same subject from the side of the remedies for the discontent of the workmen in a brief article upon the "Oppressive Taxation of the Poor," which is as lucid, vigorous, and convincing an argument as any one could desire. He limits himself to the incidence of double taxation of mortgages upon the laborers who are trying to become owners of their own houses, and he shows that a laborer who puts a thousand dollars in the bank is taxed seven and one half dollars a year, while one who has invested a thousand dollars in a house and has borrowed another thousand on a mortgage is taxed forty-four dollars. He demonstrates three things: "(1) that children's wages are necessary for the support of the family; (2) that a workman with a mortgaged house can just cover expenses by his own wages and the wages of his older children; (3) that all payments on the principal of a mortgage debt must be made from earnings of the children under fifteen years old, who ought to be at school." In view of all the statistics he brings forward, his conclusion is hardly too strong when he says: "Massachusetts has done her best to strip herself of her natural defenders, to oppress, to enrage, and to ruin them. The small landholders have little reason to love their State. The numbers of non-taxpayers are daily swelled by ruined mortgagors; those who pay a poll-tax only are already in the majority, while the rich State, like a ripe prize for plunder, lies temptingly under their hand."

—Of the literary articles, most readers will turn first to Mr. Howells's new story, 'The Lady of the Aroostook,' which begins with a deliciously natural description of New England country folk, and is full of entertainment. Prof. Norton writes upon Florence and St. Mary of the Flower, and describes the city and the early history of the Duomo with a marked fulness of knowledge and a fidelity and interest in his subject which lift the article altogether out of magazine literature and give it a permanent value. The recollections of the Brook-farm association are

concluded, and this second instalment is more interesting than the first. The other articles do not call for special notice, but the poetry is remarkable as showing very clearly the great influence of Swinburne upon the forms of melody; whatever his faults may be, he has trained the cultivated ear to so exacting a sense of the peculiar music of verse that it is not improbable that he has permanently raised the standard of poetry in this respect. But it is a mastery of word-arrangement rather than anything else that is shown by the poems of this number, and one is inclined to wish that editors would adopt the suggestion of a recent reviewer of magazine poetry, and not print any verse unless it contains thought as well as sound. Altogether this number of the *Atlantic* is one of the most valuable of the year.

—Perhaps the discovery of America was never more strikingly acknowledged by England than the other day, when London gas stocks fell sharply because of Edison's reported success in domesticating (so to say) the electric light. The panic might have been averted by reflecting on the time which has elapsed since the phonograph was invented, without one of the enervating promises made in regard to its practical application having been fulfilled. It would probably have been checked by reading Mr. W. H. Bishop's "Night with Edison" in the November *Scribner's*. Mr. Bishop suggests the defect in Edison's temperament when he mentions the fact of two centenarians among his immediate ancestors, and adds: "It is a point not altogether unimportant to note in passing, since it holds out the prospect, in the ordinary course of time, for the matured completion of the wonderful programme the inventor has laid out for himself" at thirty-one. It cannot be denied, however, that the story of his successes which have given him a fortune not only for self-enjoyment but for the prosecution of discovery on an unprecedented scale, takes a powerful hold of the imagination; and if his career is not exactly one we should like to see figure in Mr. Smiles's 'Self-help,' its influence on the young in making them despise training will be mitigated by the example of a rational use of sudden riches. It is, we suppose, an open question whether Mr. Edison's genius would have been helped or impeded by training. Other noticeable articles in this number of *Scribner's* (the first of a new volume) are Mr. R. H. Stoddard's commendably discriminating paper on Longfellow, of which the illustrations, not excepting the Eaton-Cole portrait, are more ambitious than satisfactory; the first chapters of Mrs. Burnett's 'Haworth's'; and the account of Chamblay Fort on Richelieu River. For tourists it is something to be reminded of so curious an antiquity, close at hand, as this French-English ruin; and students of political economy must be interested to view in the same neighborhood the *partage forcé* of the mother country before the inevitable reaction has set in. "In order to enable each member of the family to build his house by the side of the main road, the farms are divided lengthwise; the result being that in many cases the farmer is possessed of a ribbon of land a mile or more in length and about a stone's throw in width." There is generally something to remark on the illustrations in *Scribner's*, and those by Miss Mary Hailock Foote in the present number are among the most praiseworthy, and have been reproduced by a very sympathetic "process." Miss Curtis's Kindergarten sketches in *Harper's* likewise attract attention for their grace and cleverness of design.

—No. 71 of the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is a more than usually interesting document. To the fresh Central American discoveries of Dr. Le Plongeon, and to Prof. Valentini's surrejoinder to our remarks on his *Vortrag* on the Mexican Calendar Stone (contained in a foot-note to a translation of the *Vortrag*), we may return hereafter. Judge Emory Aldrich has a convincing paper on "Massachusetts and Maine—their Union and Separation," which would seem to have been inspired by a recent scene in the United States Senate, for it speaks of the narrow personal considerations imputed to the legislators of Massachusetts by persons "who apparently possess a very imperfect knowledge of the history of the subject"; and a quotation from Governor William King in praise of the conduct of Massachusetts in consenting to the separation is followed by the declaration that "he who should now attempt to pervert that history, or should seek to disturb the harmony resting on the foundations so wisely laid by our fathers, could hardly hope to escape the just judgment of being regarded as the enemy of both States." Dr. Edward Hitchcock contributes the result of some investigations into the relative number of college-educated men in Massachusetts during the present century. By this is meant the number of Massachusetts men found attending eleven New England colleges from year to year. Briefly, during 1890-1895 the number was 86 in the 100,000 of total population; during 1875-76 it was but 55. Dr. Hitchcock has availed himself of both the

State and United States censuses, and has grouped about them his periods of five or ten years. The proportions run thus, and for brevity's sake we indicate each period by its closing year: (1801) 86; (1811) 90; (1821) 82; (1831) 85; (1841) 76; (1851) 59; (1859) 61; (1864) 55; (1869) 51; (1874) 53; (1875-6) 55. In other words, up to 1835 the average maintains itself at nearly 86; for the next quarter of a century it falls below 63; and since 1869 it has been not quite 51. Dr. Hitchcock does not propose any explanation of this downward progression, but we believe it is not past accounting for. The falling off caused by the war of 1812 and by the civil war is plainly marked, and there can be little doubt that the panic of 1837 produced the sharp decline from 85 in 1825-34 to 76 in 1835-44. The still sharper decline to 56 in the next decade (1845-54) coincides with the Mexican war, the discovery of gold in California, the completion of trunk-lines like the Erie and Pennsylvania railroads, the annual increase in railroad extension from 4,000 miles to 15,000, the great development of ocean steamship navigation and of steam-power manufactures, together with the Irish famine and the most extraordinary increase in immigration ever experienced by this country. Here was a tremendous combination of material forces against the slender attractions of the learned professions, through which the shortest way to wealth and distinction, both social and political, no longer lay. What is encouraging is that the decline was no greater, and that it was apparently once for all, the average for 1845-76 being 52 in spite of the loss of population caused by the war, and the tendency now being upward in spite of the fact that the foreign-born population of Massachusetts, which was only 16.5 per cent. in 1850, is now probably more than 25 per cent. (24.2 in 1870).

—At the late Church Congress in Cincinnati Mr. Hewitt delivered an address upon the Mutual Relations of Capital and Labor, which was interesting in several ways. He is not alarmed at the conflict between capital and labor, and looks upon it as a healthful sign of social progress. From the history of strikes he shows that the first stopping-place has been reached at the point where labor is sufficiently organized and has enough resources for sustaining itself during a strike to force the capitalists to listen to its demands, to conciliate it, and to submit to arbitration. He points out that any increase of wealth among the laboring classes must come from the funds used in unproductive consumption, and seems convinced that the final result will be the elimination from society of the very rich class. His argument here is a little curious. He says, "The possession of superfluous riches will not stand the test of human justice"; and this statement, neglecting human authority, "is in accordance with the whole spirit and temper of the teachings of Christ himself. He nowhere condemns the ownership of property; on the contrary, when he tells us that the poor we shall have always with us, he expressly recognizes that there will be inequalities in the ownership of property. He states it as a fact. But he nowhere says that we shall always have the rich with us." He goes on to indicate that the solution of the labor problem will probably be in a system of great corporations in which the workmen will have a joint ownership, but he tells them that this is to be brought about only by their own saving—"abstinence, which is the parent of capital." By these means he looks for a permanent improvement in the social condition of the laborers, which will result in increased consumption, which will necessitate increased production, which "means lower prices," and these again "mean increased consumption," "and thus there is an entire harmony between the two agencies most concerned in the improvement of the condition of mankind." However sure this *dénouement* may be, it is certainly far off; but Mr. Hewitt seems to rely on Christianity rather than political economy to bring about the results. He says: "I am not disturbed by the objection which will be made to some of my positions, that they are at war with the received principles of political economy. . . . Political economy must follow and not lead Christianity, and will conform itself to the conclusions at which society arrives in its progress toward a permanent moral order." The "truths" of political economy "will be found to conform strictly to the higher laws which bind man to his Maker by the great bond of love." It is curious to see the practical man of business thus in a sort of rapport with Mr. Ruskin's economic theories.

—*La Roumanie*, by A. Beauré and H. Mathorel, is one of the numerous books called out by the Eastern War. It consists of 219 octavo pages, and contains the "Geography, History, Political, Judicial, and Religious Organization, Army, Finances, Commerce, Navigation, and Manners and Customs" of Wallachia and Moldavia. It is chiefly statistical, but the concluding chapters contain some interesting remarks upon the condition

and prospects of Rumania, and the introductory chapters give a good sketch of the geography and history of the country. The history is the weakest part of the whole, the question of the origin of the Rumanians being quite confusedly treated, and the most interesting part of the history—the transition to the Ottoman rule—hardly touched upon. The appendix, however, contains some documents bearing upon this—treaties of the Princes of Wallachia and Moldavia with Bajazet I., Mohammed II., and Selim I. On the other hand, the geography is fully and satisfactorily treated. The fullest chapter is that upon finance. The question of the origin of the Rumanians, by the way, which has been discussed with a good deal of animation of late, is in a fair way to be settled by compromise. The latest treatise upon the subject by Jung (Römer and Romanen in den Donauländern) professes to maintain the old view—that of the descent from Trajan's colonists in Dacia; but with so many reservations that his reviewer in Sybel's *Historische Zeitschrift* thinks it would not be hard to come to an agreement upon the conclusion that their centre of gravity was, until the thirteenth century, south of the Danube, but that a portion of them had all the time maintained itself to the north of this river. The book as a whole receives very high praise, especially in the history of the country under the Romans.

SEWALL'S DIARY.*

FOR many years the diary of Judge Sewall, while still in manuscript, was one of the standard authorities for New England affairs. The custodian of the precious record, the late Rev. Samuel Sewall, of Burlington, Mass., was always ready and willing to furnish excerpts to all enquirers. After his death the Massachusetts Historical Society purchased the manuscript, and, at as early a date as comported with its other engagements, has commenced the publication of it. Of the editorial portion we will speak later, but first we will describe the author and his records.

Judge Samuel Sewall was born in Bishopstoke, in the county of Southampton, England, and was the son of Henry Sewall and Jane Dummer. Both the parents had resided in New England, and returned thither; the father was grandson of Henry Sewall, linen-draper and mayor of Coventry, with whom, indeed, the pedigree of the family begins. In 1661 Henry Sewall with his family landed in Boston, and, returning to Newbury, prospered in that community. Two sons of Henry, John and Stephen, lived in Essex County, the latter attaining some prominence, and the daughters found husbands in the reputable families of Gerrish, Longfellow, Moody, and Northend.

Samuel Sewall was intended for the ministry, and was graduated at Harvard in 1671. He became a Resident Fellow of the college, and in 1674 was for a few months librarian. In this year he took his second degree, and, as he wrote to his son fifty years afterwards, "Mrs. Hannah Hull, my dear Wife, your honoured mother, was invited by the Dr. [Hoar] and his Lady to be with them a while at Cambridge. She saw me when I took my Degree and set her affection on me, tho' I knew nothing of it till after our marriage." During 1675 Sewall seems to have pursued his studies for the ministry, on one occasion preaching for his "master," Mr. Parker of Newbury, when, as he says, "being afraid to look on the glass, ignorantly and unwillingly I stood two hours and a half." On Feb. 28, 1675-6, he married Hannah Hull, the daughter and heiress of the wealthy goldsmith of Boston. Probably his taste for journalizing was strengthened by the example of his father-in-law, whose interesting diary was printed by the American Antiquarian Society some years ago. Certainly his attention was diverted from divinity to commerce, as Hull promptly associated him with himself in his affairs.

Undoubtedly Hull was well satisfied with his son-in-law, but Sewall records one little tiff at least. The note is in Latin, but competent authorities expound it as meaning that Mr. Hull—being much chafed at some one's bringing oats to him, as Treasurer of the Colony, in payment of taxes instead of money, without having previously consulted him—was angry with Sewall for throwing upon the fire, unseasonably as he said, a larger billet of wood than was necessary or meet, and declared that if S. would be so foolish he should have no confidence in him, for that his mind would be as unstable as if it were akin to the wind. But Hull, when he died in 1684, was intestate, and Mrs. Sewall inherited nearly two-thirds of his large estate, the remainder going to the widow, who was evidently on the best terms with her son-in-law. Eventually all her share came to the Sewalls.

* *The Diary of Samuel Sewall.* Vol. I. 1673-1700. Pp. 509. Boston. 1878.

In 1681 Sewall was prevailed upon to undertake the management of the printing-press at Boston, and some ten pamphlets are known to have been printed by him; but in 1684 he was released from that trust. He was also rising in the estimation of his townsmen and held several minor town offices. In 1684, under the non-resident system then in force, he represented Westfield in the General Court, and in 1684-5-6 he was chosen an Assistant. (We may here note that the plan of allowing voters to select their representatives free from restriction as to locality lasted in Massachusetts until 1694. The change was made by the friends of Sir William Phips, and was aimed at Boston influence. The vote was 26 to 24 in the House, and in the Council 9 to 8. Sewall voted with the majority in the upper branch.) From February, 1685, his Diary becomes more full, and a very valuable part of it relates to the political matters in which he took an earnest but cautious part. Sewall was, as we shall show, a thorough Puritan of the later type. He sympathized, therefore, with the conservative part of the magistrates, holding with Bradstreet and Danforth, and distrusting Dudley, Stoughton, and the English party.

It would be impossible to cite much of the daily reports of political events, but we transcribe that part which relates to the dissolution of the old charter government and the induction of Dudley as President of New England in 1686:

Saturday, May 15. Gov^r. Hinkley, Major Richards, Mr. Russell and Self sent to by Major Dudley to come to Capt. Paige's, where we saw the Exemplification of the Judgment against the Charter, with the Broad Seal affixed: discoursed about their acceptance: had some thoughts of shewing their Seals to the Magistrates and Deputies, though not to them as a Court; but before we returned, the Magistrates were gone to the Governour's and from thence they adjourned till Monday one a'clock. Major General came home and dined with me. Went to George Monk's and paid him in full, drank half a pint of Wine together.

Sabbath, May 16. The Lord's Supper administered with us: In the morn the 2^d Ps. sung from the 6th v. to the end. In the family, sung the 139th in course. Mr. Randolph at Meeting, sate in Mr. Luscombe's Pew. Mr. Willard prayed not for the Governour or Government, as formerly; but spake so as implied it to be changed or changing. It seems Mr. Phillips at the Old Church, prayed for Governour and Deputy Governour. Gov^r. Hinkley, Major Pyncheon, Rawson and Self with Mr. Willy in the Fore-Seat at the Sacrament.

Monday, May 17th 1686. General Court Sits at One a'clock, I goe thither, about 3. The Old Government draws to the North-side, Mr. Addington, Capt. Smith and I sit at the Table, there not being room: Major Dudley the President, Major Pyncheon, Capt. Gedney, Mr. Mason, Randolph, Capt. Winthrop, Mr. Wharton come in on the Left. Mr. Stoughton I left out: Came also Capt. [of] King's Frigate, Gov^r. Hinkley, Gov^r. West and sate on the Bench, and the Room pretty well filled with Spectators in an Instant. Major Dudley made a Speech, that was sorry could treat them no longer as Governour and Company; Produced the Exemplification of the Charter's Condemnation, the Commission under the Broad-Seal of England—both: Letter of the Lords, Commission of Admiralty, op-uly exhibiting them 'to the People: when had done, Deputy Governour said suppos'd they expected not the Court's Answer now; which the President took up and said they could not acknowledge them as such, and could no way capitulate with them, to which I think no Reply. When gone, Major General, Major Richards, Mr. Russell and Self spake our minds. I chose to say after the Major General, adding that the foundations being destroyed what can the Righteous do; speaking against a Protest; which some spake for. Spake to call some Elders to pray tomorrow which some think inconvenient, because of what past, and the Commissioners having several times declared themselves to be the King's Council when in the Town-House.

Tuesday, May 18. Mr. Willard not seeing cause to go to the Town-House to pray, I who was to speak to him refrain also. Major Bulkley and Mr. Jonathan Tyng came to Town last night. Mr. Phillips had very close Discourse with the President, to persuade him not to accept: 'twas in Mr. Willard's Study Monday after noon just at night. Mr. Stoughton and Mather there too. Now are reading the beginning of the Psalms and the Acts. . . . In the even Mr. Moody, Allen, Willard, Addington, Frary visit me. It seems neither of the Mathers, nor Baylys, nor Major Richards were at the Fast.

Wednesday, May 19. Capt. Eliot tells me that he hears Salem Troop is to be here on Friday, Capt. Higginson is Mr. Wharton's Brother in Law, and Capt. Gedney is of Salem, commands one of the Companies. Mr. Higginson and Mr. Noyes steady for Submission; the former is the Captain's Father. My Son reads to me Isa. 22 in his course this morning. In the Afternoon Major Richards and Self sent for to Capt. Winthrop's, and desired to have our Companies in Arms next Tuesday, Boston Troop to bring the President from Roxbury; what was thought of the former notion is now laid aside.

Friday, May 21, 1686. The Magistrates and Deputies goe to the Governour's. I was going to them about 11. a'clock, supposing them to be at the Town-House, and seeing a head through the Governour's Room, and, Briscoe in the Street, I asked if Magistrates there; so went in and they were discoursing about delivering the Keys of a Fort which had been asked, seemed to advise him not to do it till the Gentlemen Sworn. Mr. Nowell prayed that God would pardon each Magistrate and Deputies Sin.

Thanked God for our hitherto of Mercy 56 years, in which time sad Calamities elsewhere, as Massacre Piedmont; thanked God for what we might expect from sundry of those now set over us. I moved to sing, so sang the 17. and 18. verses of Habbakkuk.

The Adjournment which had been agreed before, Second Wednesday in October next at 8 a'clock in the Morning, was declared by the Weeping Marshal-General. Many Tears Shed in Prayer and at parting.

I waited on the President in the morn to speak with him, and so accompanied him to Town. Wednesday, Major Richards and I were sent for to Captain Winthrop's to speak with us about attending with our Companies on Tuesday; this was near night. Were advised to consult our Officers; Major Richards objected the discontent of the Souldiers and may be it might prove inconvenient. On Thursday, before Lecture, at Capt. Paige's, I told the President thought I could do nothing to the purpose: On Friday waited on him on purpose and propounded Lieut. Hayward: when came home, after Dinner went to speak with Lieut. Hayward, found him at George's. There he was speaking with his Capt., the President having spoken to him; he was to return an Answer to the President. I hear no more of it, so I suppose 'tis left with him. On Wednesday Major spake of warning by Corporals not Drum.

Wednesday, May 26. Mr. Ratliff, the Minister, waits on the Council; Mr. Mason and Randolph propose that he may have one of the 3 Houses to preach in. That is deny'd, and he is granted the East-End of the Town-House, where the Deputies used to meet: until those who desire his Ministry shall provide a fitter place. No Body that I observed went to meet the President at his first coming to Town that I know of.

Sewall had the satisfaction of seeing his adversaries in their turn routed, for in December of the same year Sir Edmand Andros arrived with a new commission, superseding Dudley:

Monday, Dec^r. 20, 1686. Governour Andros comes up in the Pinnace, touches at the Castle, Lands at Gov^r. Leveret's wharf about 2 P.M. where the President, &c. meet him and so march up through the Guards of the 8 Companies to the Town House, where part of the Commission read: He hath power to suspend Councillors and to appoint others if the number be reduced to less than seven. He and Council to make Laws. Then took the Oath of Allegiance and as Governour, then about eight of the Council sworn. Court clear'd. Governour stood with his Hat on when Oaths given to Councillours. It seems speaks to the Ministers in the Library about accommodation as to a Meeting-house [for church services], that might so contrive the time as one House might serve two Assemblies.

Tuesday, Dec^r. 21. There is a Meeting at Mr. Allen's, of the Ministers and four of each Congregation, to consider what answer to give the Governour; and 'twas agreed that could not with a good conscience consent that our Meeting-Houses should be made use of for the Common-Prayer Worship.

Dec^r. 22. Kings-fisher comes up but neither salutes the Castle nor the Town. In the evening Mr. Mather and Willard thorowly discoursed his Excellency about the Meeting-Houses in great plainness, showing they could not consent. This was at his Lodging at Madam Taylor's. He seems to say will not impose.

During the period of Andros's rule we find no word of discontent in Sewall's writings, whatever he may have felt. He was on civil, speaking terms with Andros, and visited Randolph and Ratcliffe. He refused to sell land at Cotton Hill for an Episcopalian chapel, but he put his refusal on the ground that the land was entailed, equally with his religious scruples. He gave way on one special point by asking Andros for a confirmation of his land at Hog Island. Finally, he withdrew from New England in good season, sailing for England November 17, 1688, ostensibly to attend to family affairs there. It is probable that Sewall really went charged with the hopes and aspirations of the disaffected and to aid the efforts of Increase Mather, who had already sailed as an unaccredited agent of the colonists. If so, it is curious to read in the diary that Mr. Ratcliffe "prayed God Almighty to bless" him, and that he waited on Andros to ask "his Excellency if he had any service for me to Hampshire or Coventry."

MATTHEW ARNOLD'S POEMS.*

MATTHEW ARNOLD is more widely known in this country as the critic and the liberal thinker than as the poet: yet, to our mind, his poetry is more valuable than his prose, and it is to him and Clough that the men of the future will come who desire to find the clearest poetic expression of the sentiment and reflection of the most cultivated and thoughtful men of our generation. They are both called the poets of doubt; but, apart from this characteristic of them, there are in Clough a simplicity in narration, a thrust of wit, and, throughout, a graceful manliness which make him dear to many who have never known the shadow of scepticism; and likewise there are in Arnold a vividness in picturesque description, a penetrative imagination, a moral ardor, a sensitiveness to

* 'Poems. By Matthew Arnold.' New and complete edition in one volume. New York: Macmillan & Co. 1878.

all that is charming in this world—individual powers and qualities whose results in poetic work are delightful apart from the restless and regretful spirit which infects all his writing. It is undeniable, nevertheless, that the interest of his poetry and much of its value, both in what it teaches and what it reveals, lie mainly in its being the record of the passions, the disappointments and aspirations, the entire life-experience of an open doubter so far as he has entrusted to words what he has seen and felt.

It is easy to say that Arnold is the descendant of Wordsworth, and he acknowledges his debt in many a grateful verse, but this is true only within limits. Something in his manner of treatment, something in large utterance, he gained from him; but, in the main, Wordsworth was to him what he is to all—a master in the lore of nature, a revealer of the place which her loveliness and grandeur should hold in human life.

"He laid us as we lay at birth
On the cool, flowery lap of earth.
Smiles broke from us and we had ease;
The hills were round us, and the breeze
Went o'er the sunlit fields again.
Our foreheads felt the wind and rain."

But the attitude of the two poets towards nature is dissimilar. Wordsworth might not have been equal to the splendid arrogance of Herbert, who sums up the mediæval view of the material universe in the terse, fine lines—

"Man is one world, and hath
Another to attend him";

but still he was of those who look to stand unharmed when the earth shall disappear in flame and the heavens be rolled together as a scroll, while Arnold fears that men are really as the spring flowers and the summer grass. The permanence of nature, no less than the repose and ease in which her works are wrought in contrast with the passion and effort that pervade human life, is the source of his awe, which is widely different in quality and in its reaction on the poet's soul from that which Wordsworth felt. This is the burden of her murmur as Arnold interprets it:

"Race after race, man after man,
Have thought that my secret was theirs,
Have dreamed that I lived but for them,
That they were my glory and joy:
—They are dust, they are changed, they are gone!
I remain."

It is a theme on which he frames many a changeful musical movement, and is one of the cardinal ideas which determine his emotions. Sometimes he loses this sombre view, and, gifted in a remarkable degree with the sensuous receptivity which is the common possession of poets, he delights in the direct momentary sensation—the flash and glow of color, the various landscape, all the forms and lights and glooms of the outer face of things, and finds in them a refuge. Once, indeed, he cries out against the "lorn autumns and triumphant springs" as "unmating things," but his normal mood is a trust in the soothing power of nature and in her guardianship of those of whom she is also the mother. Once, too, he seems to retain something of the old feeling that the struggles of men differentiate them from nature as higher beings, but the suggestion is quickly lost in a vague pantheism, often half-audible, and once at least clearly declared in the concluding lines of the stanzas written at Heine's grave.

If he derives from Wordsworth this openness to nature, which results so differently in him, the spirit in which he regards human life comes from Greece, and it is no less transformed. The one fact which he has seized on more closely than any other poet is the necessary isolation of every one, and it reappears from first to last with a persistence and a variety of mournful cadence which recall Beethoven's *Miserere Domine*. It is in this mood that he writes "Each on his own strict line we move," that he recurs again and again to the sea of "our different past" which rolls between all, that he likens men to "driftwood spars which meet and pass," that he bids us take a lesson from the stars, which "demand not that the things without them yield them love, amusement, sympathy." The charm of the series entitled "Switzerland," which is among his master-pieces, is in the force and clearness with which he throws light from every side upon this one idea, and shows how the pleasure of life, so far as this may come from mutual association, breaks upon it and is rebuffed; in his hope that it may not be always so, and in his final reluctant submission to it as a part of the inevitable sadness of life. A second ruling idea which is the master of the mood in many of the poems, and which strikes the most careless reader, is the protest against the results of intellectual doubt in modern life, the "sick hurry," the "divided aims," the "heads o'ertaxed," the "palsied hearts." He exhausts the vocabulary of complaint, and no opponent ever drew up such an arraignment of the tendencies of scepticism as is contained in "The Scholar Gypsy":

"Light half-believers of our casual creeds,
Who never deeply felt, nor clearly will'd,
Whose insight never has borne fruit in deeds,
Whose vague resolves never have been fulfill'd:
For whom each year we see
Breeds new beginnings, disappointments new;
Who hesitate and falter life away,
And lose to-morrow the ground won to-day."

It would be too much to say that life under these conditions seems to him not worth while; but for the life of the general mass of men he finds only such similes as the eddying of dust, the foaming of waves in midmost ocean, existence in a brazen prison; for the few who escape this common lot of transitory, trivial, and unmeaning tasks, he sees shipwreck, unfulfilled desire and unavailing courage, and his praise is for the fate of the early dead, like Adonais secure "from the contagion of the world's slow stain." If one would sum up briefly the contradiction in Arnold which is the source of this disappointment, melancholy, and confusion, it lies in the intensity with which he feels the pleasure-giving power of the world, his Greek sensuousness, and in the clearness with which he sees the limits of enjoyment, its unsatisfactoriness at best. He reveals it in "Dover Beach":

"The world which seems
To lie before us like a land of dreams,
So various, so beautiful, so new,
Hath really neither joy, nor love, nor light,
Nor certitude, nor peace, nor help for pain."

What, then, is his solution of the way life should be led? It is the old Greek reply—resignation, patience. So strongly does he feel this that he intrudes his own grief upon nature and says that she "seems to bear, rather than rejoice."

This brief, incomplete, and general description of the *ensemble* of the poet's sentiment and thought is necessarily unjust, and needs in the reader a familiarity with the poems to correct and supplement its broad statements with the minute modifications for which there is here no space. In none of the poems do all these forces, ideas, and qualities have play at once except in "The Scholar Gypsy" and in "Thyrsis," which are the best work in the volume. In the narrative poems the special convictions and moods of the poet are almost wholly absent and have only an indirect influence, while his poetic faculties have an opportunity for work less morbid and of more universal interest. His sense of form and allegiance to art are here always true; none can fail to notice, for example, the skill with which in "Tristram and Iseult" the too great tragic intensity of the narrative is relieved by the constant softening of it with descriptions of the natural scenes amid which the action goes on, and such charming pictures as that of the sleeping children; or neglect the far-reaching suggestions underlying the expression everywhere, of which, perhaps, the most powerful example is the last couplet of the second part. Besides these there are lyrics and love-songs of exquisite simplicity and melody, sonnets which ring like a trumpet-call, tender elegies, fragments of Greek choruses strong and subtle in thought and art, pictorial power which mirrors natural scenery like a lake. It would be pleasant to linger over these, but enough has been said to indicate the poetic power of Arnold, the characteristics of his conception of life, and his worthiness to be read.

Fine Arts.

DECORATIVE ART SOCIETY'S LOAN EXHIBITION.—II.

THE PICTURES.

THE collection of paintings in the South Gallery and in the corridor near it is but a small one; there are less than a hundred canvases in all. But this is all the better: a hundred frames of the usual sizes fill the walls of this room full enough, or even too full; certainly no one can wish any addition to the eighty-seven which hang there to-day. There is just a fair chance for each one: none are out of sight; none are unduly favored; the line is not so very much better than the second row when, as in this instance, the pictures hung below are not large, and are generally more minute in scale and in finish than those above. And then this collection is really very choice, and includes a less proportion than usual of the pictures which seem to be painted, in Europe, especially for the New York market.

Perhaps half the pictures are French and Belgian; a number are, or seem from style and author's name to be, German and Austrian; three or four are English, at least if Mr. Alma-Tadema and Mr. Boughton are English painters; and a dozen or more are the work of Americans. This last is a small contingent. We are the more glad to see a picture so good

as Mr. Colman's desert landscape, No. 64; whether new or not does not appear, nor to whom belonging. It is an oblong picture of considerable size: through the clouds of dust which their own march raises, the caravan of Algerian merchants is coming toward the spectator; the sun behind them shines hot and dim through the red haze made by the flying sand; but above and beyond this lurid middle-distance the sky is pure and delicate, pleasant in color and full of light. The desert seems to baffle most landscape-painters. Whatever dignity the treeless waste is capable of is generally missed in a picture. But this work of art, simple and straightforward in conception, and painted quietly and with skill sufficient for its purpose, makes the desert interesting and splendid. Mr. Hunt's strong study, No. 79, in which two bathers are getting a chance to dive by the simple process of wading out into neck-deep water, and then climbing one on the other's shoulders—this slightly-painted picture takes the color and light out of some very elaborate pieces of flesh-painting near. These two works stand well for American painting in this exhibition of the work of very strong men of older schools. In the brief space we can allow, mention is possible only of those pictures which, from one reason or another, seem especially to call for remark.

Not often do we see in a public place a picture of the character of No. 60—an upright landscape by M. Jules Dupré, an artist whose work is very rarely seen in our galleries. This picture is a landscape of a character peculiar to that French school which seems to be passing into one more realistic, more faithful to the details of nature, more fond of portraiture of natural scenes. The new men have our sympathies, and are in the right—those are always right who follow nature as they really see and understand her—but they will need to be strong and diligent indeed to make their transcripts of natural scenery and natural effects bear the comparison as works of art with the intense and simple conceptions of their forerunners. In this picture a single rough and irregularly-branching oak rises against a blue sky and white fleecy clouds; beneath it sheep and a grass-grown country lane, and open field beyond; the foreground in deep shadow, from unseen trees near the spectator. Has the color of this picture become darker than it was left by the artist? It seems possible, so profound is the shadow on the near foreground. No matter; it was never in a high key, never a painting of nature's brightest lights, of sunshine, or actual daylight, or the look of green trees in summer, nor of sheep spotted white on green grass. No rural ideas were near the artist, but a conception had seized him, a dream of something fine as a picture possessed him; tree and sheep and clouds were parts of the dream, and are painted as they appeared in it. It is essential to the truth of the conception that the tree should be massive and firm and strongly rooted; nor will one who knows trees doubt that Dupré knew them also. Then see how flat the land is. Is not that one of the rarest things in a landscape, that the foreground shall stretch to the very frame, truly horizontal? See how all about this picture other and really excel-

lent landscapes fail in that, and have foregrounds that tumble down hill to the frame. Some natural things the painter felt strongly and cared for, the rest he let go. But it would be too much to assume that he is no student of nature whose thoughts are bent, first of all, on producing a work of art. They are the truest artists, at least, who aim at that, first and last and all the time.

From the Dupré one should go to the admirable pictures by Charles Jacque—pictures which it is delightful to know are in the country. Insignificant little studies of poultry and sheep, good in a small way, but slight, perfunctory, are all of this artist's work that one generally sees—at least in color. As an etcher, and as the founder perhaps of the modern French school of etchers, M. Jacque has a high and deserved reputation, and his work in that line is well known. Of the three sombre and almost tragical landscapes in this gallery, No. 56 is perhaps our favorite, with the scraggy oaks rooted in the rocky soil, and a poor flock of a couple of dozen sheep, with a peasant in his blouse forming the centre of the gloomy landscape. Yes, that is the most impressive Jacque we know. But No. 22 is admirable too, and the smaller, No. 58, ought to be where one could see it better; it is one of the few pictures in the room that one cannot see satisfactorily. Of course the three ought to be hung together, but we have not got so far yet in our loan exhibitions. No. 21 is a picture of a different kind—a glowing, melting, pseudo-Venetian landscape by the Burgundian, M. Felix Ziem. Compared with the solemn landscapes we have been discussing, it seems not to have much meaning; but it is decorative, and is full of a certain pleasant feeling for warm colors.

It is seldom that our picture-lovers are treated with the sight of a good Jules Breton. No. 59 is one: "A Breton Penitent"; life-size, three-quarter length, in profile, she carries a lighted candle three feet long, and is busy with penitential thoughts. The picture is painted in the artist's best manner, which is a right good and sturdy one; the woman is a real peasant, and not a Parisian model masquerading in Breton cap and skirt. Perhaps one figure alone, without background, can never quite represent Jules Breton in his full strength, but his study of one figure is better art than another man's elaborate picture. The little Millet, though, No. 31, a little scrap of a thing under glass, is another of those pictures which need neither size nor elaboration to be great. For so diminutive a study it is surprisingly complete; there is a wonderful deal of Millet in it. Are there no larger and more elaborate pictures by this great master in New York collections? There is one now at Messrs. Knoedler's gallery, and a fine one; there are one or two at Cincinnati; there were several in a private gallery lately broken up; where are now those latest named? They are needed to teach Americans that French art can be serious and simple, that the French art esteemed in France is serious and simple; the painters most popular here are little regarded at home, as a general thing, but we form our judgments of French art from just those reputations that we ourselves have created.

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